

Greetings fellow York  
Countians,

This is a Fraud Alert issued by the York County Elder Abuse Task Force. Periodically, members of the York County District Attorney's office who prosecute these devastating financial crimes will offer warnings about the latest financial scams targeting seniors here in York County. Educating seniors about financial fraud is a top priority of the York County Elder Abuse Task Force. With that in mind, we want every senior in York County to remember the **3 Rs**: Recognize a potential scam; Refuse to make any hasty decisions; and Report suspicious activity to police. Stay safe and feel free to contact District Attorney Dave Sunday at the District Attorney's Office (717-771-9600) with any questions.

Dave Sunday  
District Attorney



## FRAUD ALERT – Scam-free Summer Vacations

The first day of summer is right around the corner and Pennsylvanians are planning vacations all over the world. Whether you are travelling by car, boat, plane, or train this summer, keep a few things in mind as you look around for cheap travel or accommodations:

- **Be a savvy shopper:** It is fairly common to compare rates online with different travel companies (e.g., Hipmunk, Kayak, Trivago, Expedia, Priceline, etc.), but be sure you are working with a reputable company prior to paying for travel arrangements. Talk to your friends and family about the companies they've had good experiences with, check online reviews, and review complaints with the Better Business Bureau.
- **Ignore the cold call:** If a company calls, texts, or emails you out of blue saying you've won a vacation without no prior entry or communication with said company, it's a scam. Also, if you receive a robocall (i.e., an automated call delivering a recorded message) from a company who you have not given written permission to contact you, it's likely illegal.
- **Avoid any "free" trip that requires you to pay:** No legitimate company will ask you to pay for a trip that is advertised as "free." If a company claims that you are responsible for "taxes and fees," requires you to attend a mandatory presentation, or pressures to you purchase "add-ons" for the vacation, it is likely a scam.
- **Be aware of cancellation policies:** Ask for cancellation and/or refund policies for flights, car rentals, hotel rooms, or any other vacation rentals. Make sure they are available in writing and readily available when you travel.
- **When possible, pay with a credit card:** Most credit cards give you an added layer of protection when travelling. Unlike cash or check, if you don't get what you paid for, you can dispute the charges with your credit card company. Furthermore, there are laws to protect you if your credit card information is lost or stolen.

If you receive an unwanted call, text, or email, report it to the FTC at [ftc.gov/complaint](http://ftc.gov/complaint) or by calling 1-877-FTC-HELP. You can also sign up for the National Do Not Call Registry at [donotcall.gov](http://donotcall.gov). The FTC has a number of articles with travel tips available on its website, [ftc.gov](http://ftc.gov).